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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,218	01/02/2004	James Edwin Hanson	00280752AA	6661
30743 7590 08/25/2008 WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON & COOK, P.C. 11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 340 RESTON, VA 20190				
EXAMINER WON, MICHAEL YOUNG				
ART UNIT 2155		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/25/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,218

Applicant(s)

HANSON ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL Y. WON

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Request filed on March 13, 2008, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new rejection is set forth below.
2. Claims 1-16 have been examined and are pending with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maes (US 7,415,537).

INDEPENDENT:

As per **claim 1**, Maes teaches a system for enabling human users to interact with conversation-enabled applications installed at a remote location, said conversation-enabled applications implementing a conversation policy, the system comprising:

conversation support means communicating with a human-usable interface installed on a user device (see Fig.1, #12a: "Local Conversational Browser") to support the user's side of a conversation with the conversation-enabled applications (see Fig.1 and col.3, lines 24-39: "conversational (multi-modal) portal");

presentation support means communicating with the human-usable interface installed on the user device to show the user a state of the conversation and options for selection by the user (see col.14, lines 17-41: "exchanging information to coordinate a conversation between the network connected device s such as information regarding the state, context and history of a dialog");

data input means installed on the user device by which the user selects an available option and fills in message content that conforms with the conversation policy in use by the conversation-enabled applications (see col.13, lines 35-40: "keyboard input, ect").

As per **claim 10**, Maes teaches a method for enabling human users to interact with conversation-enabled applications installed at a remote location, said interaction being by means of a user device having an installed human-usable interface and said conversation-enabled applications implementing a conversation policy, the method comprising the steps of:

loading a selected service device, said service including a policy archive and a presentation archive (see col.13, lines 1-6: "other policies may be employed"; and col.18, lines 28-31: "particular web document (or service)... can select to download the document");

installing a conversation policy supporting the selected service (see col.13, lines 7-17: "offer additional services... based on the policies");

accessing the policy archive and communicating with the human-usable interface installed on the user device to support the user's side of a conversation with the conversation-enabled applications (see Fig.1, #12a: "Local Conversational Browser") to support the user's side of a conversation with the conversation-enabled applications (see Fig.1 and col.3, lines 24-39: "conversational (multi-modal) portal");

accessing the presentation archive and communicating with the human-usable interface installed on the user device to show the user a state of the conversation and options for selection by the user (see col.14, lines 17-41: "exchanging information to coordinate a conversation between the network connected device s such as information regarding the state, context and history of a dialog"); and

prompting user to select an available option and fill in message content that conforms with the conversation policy in use by the conversation-enabled applications (see col.13, lines 35-40: "keyboard input, ect").

DEPENDENT:

As per **claim 2**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein in the conversation support means and the presentation support means are installed on the user device (see Fig.1, #12a).

As per **claim 3**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein the conversation supports means and the presentation support means are installed on a remote machine, which communicates with the user device (see Fig.1, #22).

As per **claim 4**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein the human-usable interface is a plug-in browser (see col.15, lines 14-21).

As per **claim 5**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein the data input means prompts the user for decisions and then generates a corresponding screen flow for data input and transforms entered data into a format suitable for delivery to the remote location (see col.12, lines 40-62).

As per **claim 6**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein, said presentation support means includes an archive of presentation policies accessed to render messages for the user (see col.13, lines 7-17).

As per **claim 7**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein the user device is a personal digital assistant (see col.9, lines 24-30).

As per **claim 8**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein the user device is a personal computer (see col.9, lines 24-30).

As per **claim 9**, which depends on claim 1, Maes further teaches wherein said presentation support is obtained from another system (see Fig.1, #11).

As per **claim 11**, which depends on claim 10, Maes further teaches wherein the policy archive and presentation archive are loaded on the user device and the conversation policy is installed on the user device (see claim 2 rejection above).

As per **claim 12**, which depends on claim 11, Maes further teaches wherein the user device is a personal digital assistant (see claim 7 rejection above).

As per **claim 13**, which depends on claim 11, Maes further teaches wherein the user device is a personal computer (see claim 8 rejection above).

As per **claim 14**, which depends on claim 10, Maes further teaches wherein the policy archive and presentation archive are loaded on a remote machine and the conversation policy is installed on the remote machine, the remote machine communicating with the human-usable interface installed on the user device (see claim 3 rejection above).

As per **claim 15**, which depends on claim 10, Maes further teaches wherein said presentation support is obtained from another system (see claim 9 rejection above).

As per **claim 16**, which depends on claim 10, Maes further teaches wherein the human-usable interface is a plug-in browser (see claim 4 rejection above).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. After further review and searching, Maes (US 7,415,537) has been cited to clearly and explicitly teach the claimed invention. Furthermore, it is noted that in the Maes reference and the current application, the assignee is the same. To avoid possible obvious-type double patenting, the applicant(s) are encouraged to amend the claims to explicitly recite the improvement thereon.

Conclusion

5. For the reasons above, claims 1-16 have been rejected and remain pending.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL Y. WON whose telephone number is (571)272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 10AM-8PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Won/

Primary Examiner

August 19, 2008